

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

PRELUDE

Becky Retherford

Gathering

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*(Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.)*

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us, the Kinnickinnic River  
and the St. Croix River, Bushnell Lake and Pine Lake.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels,

giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #863 "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art"

- 1 My God, how wonderful thou art,  
thy majesty how bright!  
How beautiful thy mercy seat  
in depths of burning light!
- 2 How wonderful, how beautiful  
the sight of thee must be--  
thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r,  
and awesome purity!
- 3 No earthly father loves like thee;  
no mother, e'er so mild,  
bears and forbears as thou hast done  
with me, thy sinful child.
- 4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,  
almighty as thou art,  
for thou hast stooped to ask of me  
the love of my poor heart.
- 5 My God, how wonderful thou art,  
thou everlasting friend!  
On thee I stay my trusting heart  
till faith in vision end.

## READING

Psalm 66:8-20 *(read responsively)*

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

**Our God has kept us among the living  
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**You brought us into the net;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

**I will enter your house with burnt offerings  
and will pay you my vows—**

those that I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.**

Come and listen, all you who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

**I called out to God with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

If I had cherished evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;

**but in truth God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

**Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me.**

#### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

#### HYMN OF PRAISE            ELW #253    “He Came Down”

- 1 He came down that we may have hope;  
he came down that we may have hope;  
he came down that we may have hope;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 2 He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 3 He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 4 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, **you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Word

BIBLE READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      ELW #388    "Be Not Afraid"

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!  
 Christ is risen, alleluia!  
 Be not afraid, sing out for joy!  
 Christ is risen, alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

SERMON

Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY

ELW #631    "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
 Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
 Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
 all thy faithful mercies crown.  
 Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
 pure, unbounded love thou art;  
 visit us with thy salvation,  
 enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit  
 into ev'ry troubled breast;  
 let us all in thee inherit;  
 let us find thy promised rest.  
 Take away the love of sinning;  
 Alpha and Omega be;  
 end of faith, as its beginning,  
 set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
 let us all thy life receive;  
 suddenly return, and never,  
 nevermore thy temples leave.  
 Thee we would be always blessing,  
 serve thee as thy hosts above,  
 pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
 glory in thy perfect love.

- 4 Finish then thy new creation,  
 pure and spotless let us be;  
 let us see thy great salvation  
 perfectly restored in thee!  
 Changed from glory into glory,  
 till in heav'n we take our place,  
 till we cast our crowns before thee,  
 lost in wonder, love, and praise!

#### NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Responses: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

#### THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(You are welcome to share the peace with others.)*

OFFERING & HYMN      ELW #678 "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

- 1 God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
off'ring up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.
  
- 2 Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone;  
born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.
  
- 3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, **maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Sending

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
 Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
 and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
 † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN      ELW #393      "A Hymn of Glory, Let Us Sing!"

- 1 A hymn of glory let us sing!  
 New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Christ, by a road before untrod,  
 ascends unto the throne of God.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 2 The holy apostolic band  
 upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 and with his faithful foll'wers see  
 their Lord ascend in majesty.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 3 To whom the shining angels cry,  
 "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 "This is the Savior!" thus they say,  
 "this is his glorious triumph day!"  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 4 "You see him now, ascending high  
 up to the portals of the sky."  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 "Hereafter Jesus you shall see  
 returning in great majesty."  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**